

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**
PROUDLY SERVING THE 2nd DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

For Immediate Release

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JACKSON VOTES TO PASS HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

SAYS BILL SAVES LIVES AND PERFECTS OUR UNION

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. made today this statement about his vote in support of health care insurance reform in the U.S. House of Representatives:

"After years of debate and decades of struggle, Congress at long last has arrived at a decisive, defining moment. We face a clear choice: seize this moment and fix our nation's broken health care system or let it slip away and maintain the status quo.

"Today, I proudly cast my vote to make history and to do what's right -- to reform our health

care system, to provide quality, affordable health care to almost all Americans and to make our country better, stronger, healthier and more decent.

"When it goes into effect, this bill will put the American people -- not the insurance companies -- in control of their own health care. It expands health care coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans. It increases competition and brings down health care costs, making health insurance more affordable to families and small businesses.

"This bill also strengthens consumer protections, preventing insurance companies from denying coverage or charging higher rates based on so-called 'pre-existing conditions.' It improves Medicare by providing lower prescription drug costs, better chronic care and free preventive care. And, it reduces the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next ten years and by more than one trillion over the following decade.

"This bill is not perfect, but no bill of this size and scope ever is. So, while I had hoped that the final health care bill would have gone even further, it certainly goes far in the right direction -- moving the country forward.

"Just as Social Security and Medicare, this comprehensive health insurance reform bill saves lives and perfects our Union. It reflects our country's promise and character. It makes the greatest nation in the world even greater."

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